

THE GYD
FORGE*

TRAINING SESSION

Applying the Bible Well





Applying the Bible Well

1. Introduction: Why Does This Matter?

1.1 OPENING DISCUSSION

- Have you ever heard a great Bible talk but walked away unsure of what to do with it? Why do you think that happens?
- Think of a time when a Bible lesson, sermon, or study changed the way you thought or lived. What made the application powerful?

1.2 TEACHING POINT

Bible teaching is not complete without application. God's Word is not just to be heard but to be obeyed (*James 1:22-25*). True Bible teaching does not stop at understanding; it presses for transformation (*Romans 12:2*).

1.3 THE "SO WHAT?" FACTOR

Application answers the question:

"What does this mean for me? How should I respond?"

Without clear, faithful application, Bible teaching can remain **abstract, theoretical, or disconnected from daily life**. Application **bridges the gap** between knowing God's truth and living it out.

2. What Is Application?

2.1 DEFINITION

Application answers the "So what?" question of Bible teaching. It shows how biblical truth should be **lived out** in the world and in our hearts. It is rooted in the conviction that God's Word is meant to **transform us**, not just **inform us** (*James 1:22-25*).

Daniel Akin defines application as:

"The process whereby the expositor takes a biblical truth of the text and applies it to the lives of his audience, proclaiming why it is relevant for their lives, and passionately encouraging them to make necessary changes..."

2.2 ANALOGY

Application is like a **bridge**—without it, people may understand a passage but struggle to see how it connects to their lives.

It is also like a **satnav (GPS)**—it gives clear directions for how to live, not just information about the road ahead.

2.3 QUOTE TO REFLECT ON

“The Bible was not given for our information, but for our transformation.” – *D.L. Moody*

3. Where Does Application Impact?

Application shapes every area of life, calling for transformation in four key areas:

- **Worldview** – It renews our thinking, shaping how we see ourselves, others, and God (*Romans 12:2*).
- **Spiritual State** – It deepens our walk with Christ and our grasp of the gospel (*Colossians 2:6–7*).
- **Corporate Meaning for the Church** – It helps us understand our place in the body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:12–27*).
- **The Heart** – It addresses what we love and desire (*Proverbs 4:23*), aiming for deep heart transformation.

4. Where Does Application Appeal To?

Application speaks to the **will**—it calls for a **response**, urging children and young people to **act upon the truth** (*Philippians 2:12–13*). It moves beyond knowledge to **motivate real obedience** to God.

5. Why Is Application Essential?

5.1 APPLICATION ENSURES THE BIBLE IS MORE THAN JUST THEORY

Application ensures that Bible teaching does not stay in the realm of abstract ideas but leads to **real, gospel-driven transformation**.

5.2 APPLICATION MAKES THE BIBLE PERSONAL

- Without application, the Bible can feel **distant** and **theoretical**.
- **Example:** The parable of the Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:25–37*) is not just a lesson about kindness; it challenges us to examine our own love for others.

5.3 APPLICATION CHALLENGES THE HEART

- Right application goes beyond behaviour; it **addresses the heart** (*Proverbs 4:23*).
- **Example:** Jesus calls for **radical forgiveness** (*Matthew 18:21–35*), not just outward politeness.

5.4 APPLICATION PREVENTS SHALLOW TEACHING

- It is easy to stay at the level of “be good” or “be kind,” but true application digs deeper into **why** we obey—**because of Christ**.
- **Example:** Instead of teaching “Don’t lie,” we should teach, “Because God is truth, we must be truth-tellers” (*Ephesians 4:25*).

6. Some Problems with Application

- **Too General** – Broad applications don’t connect with specific life situations.
- **Too Vague** – Unclear applications leave young people wondering what to do next.
- **Too Focused on Behaviour Modification** – True application should reach the **heart**, not just change outward actions. It should address the **why** behind behaviour (*Matthew 15:18–20*).

7. How to Make Application Specific

To apply Scripture well, ask **good questions** that lead to practical, gospel-centred responses. These help move beyond generalised application and focus on **concrete actions** and **heart transformation**.

7.1 GENERAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What does this passage teach about God, myself, and the world?
- How does this truth challenge my thinking, desires, or priorities?
- What response does this passage call for—faith, repentance, obedience, or trust?
- How does this passage shape how I live at home, at school, or in church?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with others?

7.2 APPLICATION IN KEY AREAS OF LIFE

With God – Knowing Him Better and Living for Him

- What truth about God do I need to believe and trust?
- How does this passage call me to love, obey, or worship God?
- What promise from God do I need to hold onto in my life right now?
- Is there a sin I need to confess and turn from?

With Myself – Growing in Christlike Character

- How does this passage challenge my attitudes, desires, or priorities?
- What fears, doubts, or struggles does this truth address in my life?
- How does this passage shape the way I speak, think, or make decisions?

With Others – Living Out Faith in Community

- How does this passage call me to love, serve, or encourage others?
- Who do I need to forgive, reconcile with, or show kindness to?
- How can I reflect Christ in my relationships at home, school, or church?

With the World – Standing Firm in Faith

- How does this passage equip me to live as a Christian in a non-Christian world?
- How does this truth prepare me to resist temptation or stand against cultural pressures?
- How does this passage encourage me to share my faith with others?

8. Practical Exercises: Strengthening Application

8.1 ACTIVITY 1: EVALUATING WEAK APPLICATION

- Provide a Bible passage and a weak application (e.g., “Be nice to your friends”).
- Ask: How could this be made more gospel-centred and practical?

8.2 ACTIVITY 2: LIVE PRACTICE

- Assign each person a short Bible passage.
- Have them craft an application that addresses **Head, Heart, and Hands** and share it with the group.

8.3 ACTIVITY 3: PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Where do I struggle with application in my teaching?
- Do I tend to make application too vague, too moralistic, or too abstract?
- How can I ensure my applications are **biblical, Christ-centred, and practical**?

9. Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

- **Moralism Over the Gospel** – Application is not about making children “better people” but about calling them to **depend on Christ**.
- **Forcing Application Where It Doesn’t Fit** – Some passages are meant to build knowledge of God, not immediately produce an action. Be discerning.
- **Making Application Too Vague** – Avoid unclear statements like “Trust God” without explaining **how** that trust affects daily life.

10. Conclusion and Prayer

10.1 FINAL REFLECTION

- What is one way you will improve how you apply the Bible in your teaching?
- What is one area where you need to grow in applying Scripture to your own life?

10.2 CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the gift of your Word, which is not only true but living and active. We confess that it is easy to teach without truly applying your truth to our own lives or the lives of those we serve. Help us to be faithful in calling children and young people not just to hear your Word but to respond to it.

Give us wisdom to apply Scripture in ways that are clear, Christ-centred, and relevant. Guard us against moralism and help us always point young hearts to Jesus. May our teaching lead to true transformation by the power of your Spirit.

Help us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only.

In Jesus' name, Amen.